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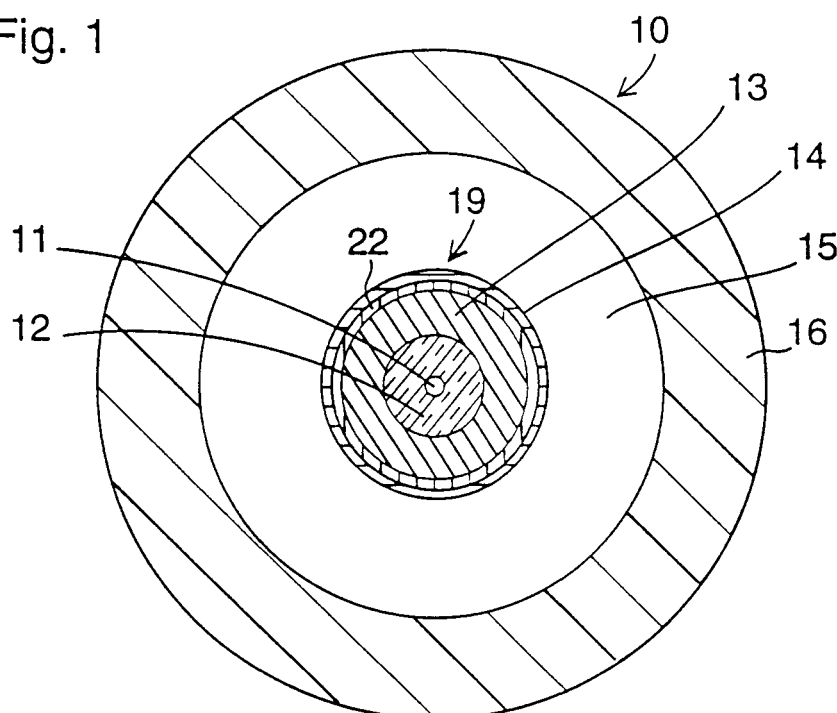
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(54) **Buffered optical fiber**

(57) A buffered optical fiber (10) includes a coated optical fiber (19) loosely contained within a space (15) delimited by the inner surface of a plastic tube (16). The outer surface of the coated optical fiber is formed of non-stick material (14) such as TEFLON. No filler material is inserted between the coated optical fiber (19) and

the inner surface of the plastic tube (16). The plastic tube (16) may have an inner diameter of 400 μm and an outer diameter of 900 μm . The buffered optical fiber (10) is suitable for use in interconnect cables (20).

Fig. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) |
| | | | G02B C03C |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search MUNICH | | Date of completion of the search 28 April 1999 | Examiner Lord, R |
| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> | | | |

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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